ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Process for the racemisation of an enantiomerically enriched α-amino nitrile characterized in that the enantiomerically enriched α-amino nitrile is contacted with a lewis acid catalyst. Preferably an aprotic solvent is used. The lewis acid catalyst preferably comprises a metal chosen from main group elements IA-IVA of the Periodic Table (CAS version), the transition metals and the lanthanides, in particular Al, Ti, Zr, or lanthanides. The catalsyt for example has the general structure MnXpSqLr, and preferably is chosen from the group of aluminum alkoxides, aluminum alkyls, lanthanide alkoxydes and lanthanocenes. The racemisation may be performed in combination with a resolution process, for instance in combination with an enzymatic or a crystallization induced resolution process, preferably in situ, for instance in situ in a crystallization induced asymmetric transformation process.